California Department of Justice DIVISION OF CALIFORNIA JUSTICE INFORMATION SERVICES Nick L. Dedier, Director/CIO



$INFORMATION \ BULLETIN$

Subject:

Megan's Law for the Internet VCIN Entry Changes

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Contact for information:

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TO: ALL CALIFORNIA LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCIES

Assembly Bill (AB) 488 (Chapter 745, Statutes of 2004), was signed into law as "urgency" legislation on September 24, 2004, and takes effect immediately. The bill adds Section 290.46 to the California Penal Code (PC). It mandates that the Department of Justice (DOJ) will, on or before July 1, 2005, make specified information on sex offenders who are required to register under Section 290 PC available to the public via the Internet. This will include full address information on a significant number of sex registrants throughout the State. A copy of the bill can be accessed through the Attorney General's Web site at www.ag.ca.gov.

A separate Information Bulletin will be forthcoming within the next 60 days providing a thorough explanation of AB 488 and the progress that has been made in the development of the public Internet Web site. In addition, information on the implementation status of AB 488 will be periodically updated through the Attorney General's Web site.

Restrictions on Entry of Offense and Criminal Information & Identification Number (CII)

Because new criteria has been established to determine which registrants are to be made available to the public on the Internet, a complete reassessment of all sex registrants must be conducted against the Criminal History System (CHS) to ensure data integrity and accuracy. As a result of this process and other internal changes, modifications are being made to the "Offense," "CII," and other related data fields. Specifically, certain constraints are immediately being added to VCIN that will simplify the entry and update of registration information entered via CLETS.

1. **Offense Information (OFF)**:

When the Type of Registration (TOR) is "sex," only an offense of "290" PC is allowed. The Offense (OFF) data field is optional. DOJ will update the offense information once the conviction is validated. DOJ will verify the conviction information through CHS and other available sources. The following VCIN/CLETS message will appear when an agency attempts to enter or update an offense with a code other than "290":

ONLY OFFENSE "290" ALLOWED

2. Miscellaneous Field (MIS):

If entering an offense of "290," a comment in the Miscellaneous (MIS) field is now optional. DOJ encourages agencies to continue entering a comment in the MIS field to

Information Bulletin Megan's Law for the Internet VCIN Entry Changes Page 2

identify the actual conviction offense for the following: A) out-of-state convictions; B) 290 court ordered registrations; and C) unique conviction data/special circumstances. Sample miscellaneous comments are:

MIS/OUT OF STATE CONVICTION (enter state where conviction occurred and the literal description of the conviction offense).

MIS/COURT ORDERED REGISTRATION (enter conviction charge and court of conviction).

MIS/CONVICTED (enter unique conviction data/special circumstances).

3. **Date of Conviction (DOC)**:

The Date of Conviction (DOC) data field has been removed and will not be displayed on the VCIN/CLETS inquiry response. The following VCIN message will appear when an agency attempts to enter a DOC:

ONLY DOJ CAN SET DOC

4. **CII NUMBER**:

A CII number, although optional, can only be entered into VCIN through the Entry message key (ESA). However, to avoid the establishment of duplicate records, any attempt to enter a CII number on a sex registrant with an existing CII number will be rejected with the following message:

CII NUMBER ALREADY EXISTS IN VCIN

Agencies must then update the existing VCIN record using the update message key(USA).

If you have specific questions concerning this Information Bulletin, please contact Susan Houston, Sex Offender Tracking Program (SOTP) at (916) 227-4104 or via e-mail at Susan.Houston@doj.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

DOUG SMITH, Deputy Director

Division of California Justice Information Services

For BILL LOCKYER

Attorney General